

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending; claims 14-28 are withdrawn from consideration; claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7-13 are rejected; and claims 3 and 6 are objected to in this application. Claims 1 and 6 are amended hereby; and claims 2, 3 and 14-28 are cancelled hereby. The provisional election made on February 23, 2005 to prosecute the invention of claims 1-13 is hereby affirmed.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,308,696 (Schroeder) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,393,859 (Marossy et al.), Applicant has amended claim 1 to include elements of claims 2 and 3, and canceled claims 2 and 3. The Examiner has indicated that claim 3 would be allowable if placed in independent form, accordingly Applicant has placed claims 1, 4, 5 and 7-13 in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 3 and 6 would be allowable if amended to include the base claim and any intervening claims. To that end Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 3 and cancelled claims 2 and 3. Further, Applicant has amended claim 6 placing it in independent form by incorporating the limitations of claims 1 and 5 therein, the allowance of claim 6 is hereby respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: May 12, 2005.

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May 12, 2005

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